



# Despatches

Issue 5

January 2012

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## Archive content:

- Baptisms - now until 1905 – 15191 records
- Burials – now until 1897 – 10142 records
- Marriages – 3814 records
- Trade Directories – 2423 records
- Electoral Registers – 4039 records
- Cemetery – 1581 records
- Tithe – 2045 records

## NEW

- More Tithe data
- More Baptisms
- More Burials
- Maidstone Journal extracts – 376 records

## COMING

- More electoral registers

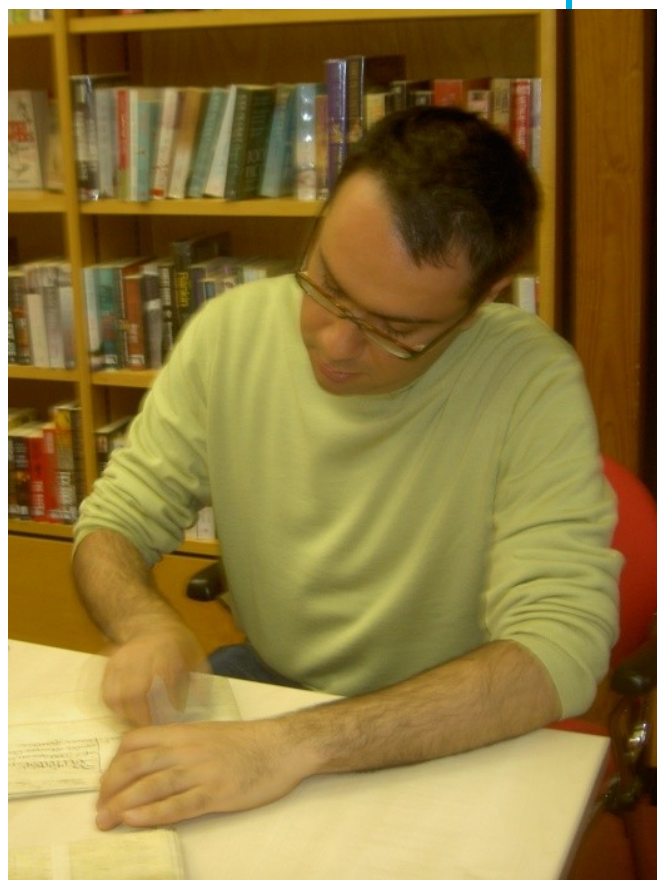
## Heritage Centre News

In 2011, we had an Italian visitor, Gianluca Giannico, working on a six month internship with us paid for by the European Union. This has been very productive with him visiting Maidstone Museum, Maidstone Library and the library of Kent Archaeological Society. He also made frequent visits to the Centre for Kentish Studies (CKS). Gianluca transferred the information to our catalogue. We are so grateful for his work and this means that you will be able to see additional baptisms and burials for the later years. He worked at Marden on a six month secondment from his university studies in Pisa. Other important items which were added are 10 year snapshots of the Electoral registers. We hope that this will add further information helpful to building a history of your ancestors. He returned from CKS with a fascinating map from 18th century which showed the area of Church Green as exactly that – a church green with no buildings. The High Street also showed the buildings that existed at that time. I couldn't believe that some farmer would call a field 'Grinning Weed Field'. More assize records show some of our unruly past. Hearth taxes have also been unearthed – how rich you were to have more than five fireplaces? Finally we have our eyes on various documents which we are being allowed to photograph as a special concession. All this arising from the happy occurrence of someone from Pisa wanting to further his experience and, luckily for us, choosing Marden from the internet. He became a fixture in the Heritage Centre and we were very sorry when his time came to leave us in November.

Another very fortunate voluntary contribution happened last year. While we were doing our project with The Parliamentary Archives on the coming of the Railway to Marden, a group of people from other villages along the railway

line came to join us. One of these from Paddock Wood enjoyed working with us so much that he has become a regular volunteer with great computer skills. It is thanks to Vince Greene that the Tithe data you can see in the catalogue has grown enormously. He is very keen to complete this project – a mammoth task, but there again full of data about people and where they lived and farmed and the extra details which document what was grown and the descriptive names of the fields.

We apologise that we have had a serious problem with the accuracy of the available 1911 census, and this has held up transcription of these records.



## Parliament trip

### Marden History Group Trip to Parliament

On Tuesday 22nd March 2011 a party of nine set off from Marden Railway Station to visit the Houses of Parliament. This was the penultimate activity as part of *People and Parliament: Connecting with Communities*. The Parliamentary Archives have been conducting Parliamentary Outreach with local historians and community archives and when they approached Kent County Council, the Centre for Kentish Studies called a meeting to which they invited Eunice Doswell and Catherine Alderson on behalf of Marden History Group. The project that was subsequently launched on 29th January 2011 is *The Impact of the Coming of the Railway to Kent in 1842*.

We have searched our own collection, material held by the Centre for Kentish studies and records held by the Parliamentary Archives themselves. For someone who had not previously visited Parliament it was an eye-opening experience. The opulence of the Robing Room with its massive paintings and bronze friezes of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table, the Chair of State and the gilt chandeliers was stunning. The richness of the House of Lords contrasted with the relative paucity of decoration in the House of Commons. And who can ever forget Westminster Hall with its vast mediaeval hammer beam roof?

After lunch we were treated to a visit to the Victoria Tower. This was completed in 1860 as a dedicated archive repository following the fire of 1834 which burnt down the old Houses of Parliament. It is now 80% full and stores all but the very first four Acts passed by Parliament. During the reign of some



monarchs, e.g. Henry VIII, many acts were passed, but in Charles 1st's time there were only a handful. The older acts were written on goat skin, the very large rolls being Land Tax Acts.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent in the search room, extracting information from the ledgers and maps that Laura Gardner, the archivist working on this project with us, had already removed from storage.

Following the final presentation by Laura on 28th March at CKS, she will publish our project on the Government website <http://www.parliament.uk>



## The National Fruit Show

In 1999, the annual fruit show at the Kent showgrounds at Detling was re-launched as "The National Fruit Show". It had been run most years since 1933 as The Marden Fruit Show and been staged in Marden from 1933 till moving from Pattenden Lane to the much larger site at Detling in 1992.

The following article is a history of that inaugural 1933 show but as an introduction, here are a few details on the current state of the Marden Fruit Show Society, an organisation started in 1933 to raise the standard of cultivation, packing and marketing of local fruit:

From <http://www.nationalfruitshow.org.uk/>

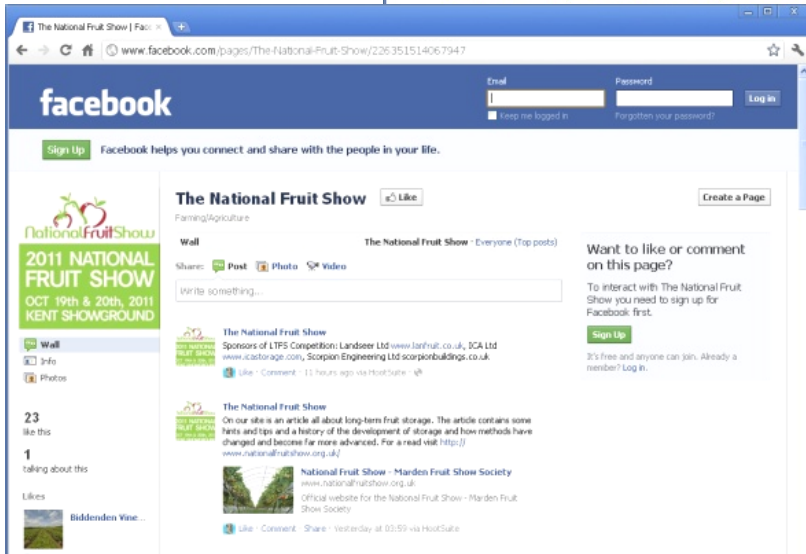
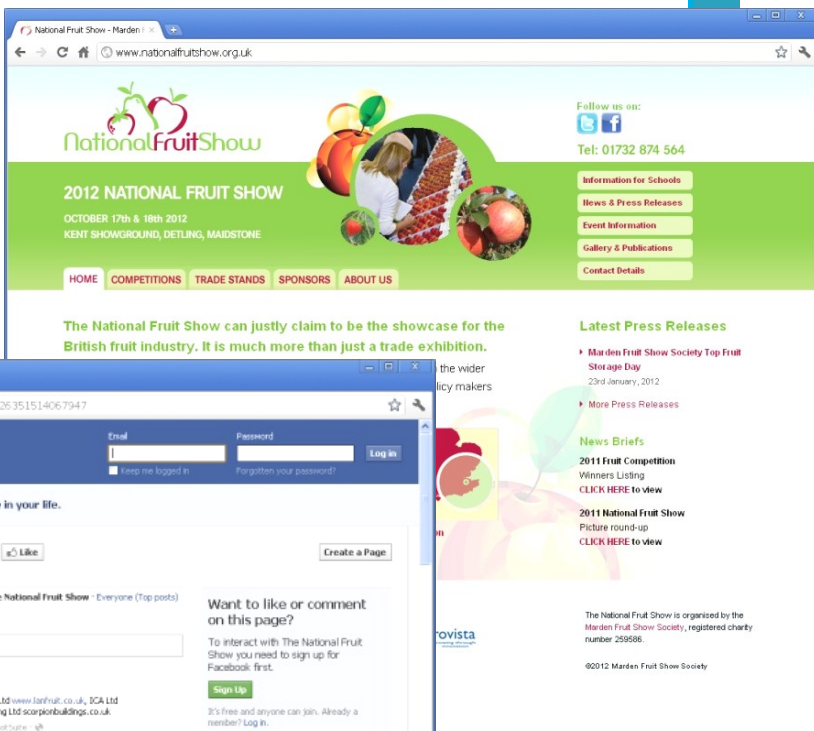
The Marden Fruit Show Society (MFSS) is a Registered Charity run by a voluntary committee who represent many different facets of the fruit industry. The aim of the Society is to promote the better growing, grading and marketing of fruit. The Society organises the National Fruit Show, which acts as a meeting place for the industry. The centrepiece of the show, held each October, is the largest competitive display of commercially grown top and soft fruit staged in the UK.

To keep up with The Marden Fruit Show Society, use any of the web tools below. The 2012 show will be on October 17th & 18th.

Homepage: <http://www.nationalfruitshow.org.uk>

Facebook: The National Fruit Show

Twitter: @nationalfruit



## The 1933 Fruit Show

One of the earliest references to fruit growing in Marden is found on a map of 1768 of the estates of Great Cheveney showing over six acres of cherries in Black Cherry Orchard and Red Cherry Orchard. Great Cheveney is two miles south of Marden on the Goudhurst road.



William Marshall, a leading 18th century agricultural writer spoke of Kent being "a low, dirty agricultural county, but around Marden a clay of higher colour and richer quality prevails." He continues that there were few orchards around here in his day and "most were in the township of Marden and these were of apples, a species of fruit which is ill-adapted to the Weald lands. The pear would probably flourish on many of them." Time would prove him wrong about the suitability of the area for apples.

Records from the Tithe Apportionment data – 1841, show us that Marden then had 116 orchards and 2 fruit plantations.

In the 19th century in the Weald, farming was the main commercial business, but only a small proportion of this was fruit, primarily apples and pears and mainly in and around Marden. But by the end of the century there was a depression in arable farming, with a considerable fall in the wheat and corn price as American grain exports grew.

Marden however, not being wholly dependent on stock or arable crops, was able to sustain its livelihood and then improve with the increase of hops and fruit under cultivation. Apples were fetching between 7 and 15 shillings per bushel (40 lbs) in 1881 at Covent Garden. That amount would pay the wages of a man and a boy for a full week's work. Farm account books from around 1890 show that apples, pears, plums, damsons and strawberries were being grown.

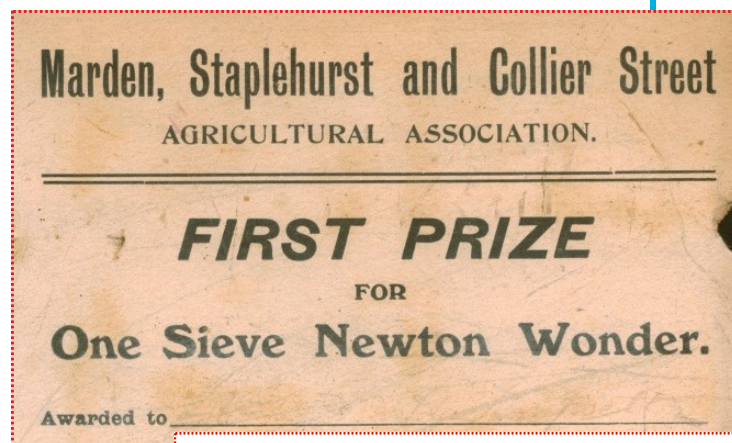
By 1901 the acreage of orchards had increased to 788.

Various Trade Directories show us that in 1905 there were 7 fruit growers here, which by 1938 expanded to 12. Also listed were a fruit salesman and basket warehouse, then a box and crate maker. The price for a bushel of fruit had reached 20 shillings and 10 pence in 1918, paying half of a farm worker's weekly wage – fruit now had a controlled price which made it well worthwhile cultivating.

There was keen competition in fruit growing as shown by the awards from Marden Cottage Gardeners' Mutual Improvement Society 1931 and one from Marden, Staplehurst, and Collier Street Agricultural Association 1930.



Marden History Group – Ref:3929a



Marden History Group – Ref:3929b  
(The Marden Staplehurst and Collier Street Agricultural Association lasted from 1888 to 1929.)

## The 1933 Fruit Show

Once again, following the First World War, agriculture suffered from falling prices but, fortunately for our village, fruit production continued to expand. The Marden Branch of the National Farmers' Union passed a resolution, "That this meeting is of the opinion that Home Grown Fruit should be more extensively advertised and that a better system of distributions should be organised."

Therefore in February 1933 a group of local top fruit growers, worried about fruit imports from abroad and feeling that the local Ploughing Match was not a venue to meet their needs, decided on a radical move. They formed "The Marden and District Fruit Show Society".

They felt that the society would have two main aims: to raise the

standard of cultivation and, even more importantly, to pay attention to the packing and marketing of fruit.

Thirty five growers attended the first meeting and each donated one shilling to set the ball rolling. By the early summer they had £20-12s-0d in their account. This aroused the interest of The Customs and Excise, who demanded tax on the sum.

Fortunately the National Farmers' Union were able to get this quashed as long as the show's educational aims were included in the proposed handbook. But how were they going to achieve their goals? A letter was sent to interested parties giving notice of an initial general meeting to be held in Staplehurst the following week - show subscriptions to be 5s for those farming fruit on up to 25 acres and 10s for a larger acreage.

THE ESTATE OFFICE,  
KING STREET,  
MAIDSTONE.

13th March 1933.

Dear Sir,

It has been arranged to hold a Commercial Fruit Show at Marden in October of this year. Members of the Staplehurst and Marden Branches of the N.F.U., members of other Branches and non-members farming within the Parishes stated hereunder will be eligible to become members of the Show.

Granbrook, Goudhurst, Hersmonden, Brenohley (including Paddock Wood and Matfield), Yalding (including Collier Street), Headcorn, Frittenden and Marden.

As the name implies the Show will be run on Commercial lines. Its advertising value, not only to the District but to the individual grower, cannot be over-estimated. Commendable premises have been obtained and by the large number of farmers already enrolled, it promises to be highly successful.

It will be the Committee's aim to make the Show of interest to the smaller Fruit Grower as well as the larger Grower.

The rate of subscription is the very moderate one of 5/-d. up to 25 acres of Tree Fruit and 10/-d. above 25 acres.

In order that the Committee may make all necessary preparations it is essential if you desire to become a member, that the attached form be completed and returned to the Secretary as under if possible by return.

A General Meeting of members is being called and will be held at Staplehurst within the next week or so, notice of which, on receipt of the enclosed form, will be sent you in due course.

Yours faithfully,

J. A. RAYNHAM, Chairman pro tem.

HUBERT E. FRENCH, Secretary pro tem.  
(for the Committee).

## The 1933 Fruit Show

*This newspaper article from July 1933 reports on the first general meeting. They were optimistic they would have £250 to launch a show of 21 classes of fruit in 3 sections – culinary apples, dessert apples and pears.*

**MARDEN AND DISTRICT  
COMMERCIAL FRUIT  
Committee SHOW 10 July  
Meeting . 1933  
ARRANGEMENTS COMPLETED**

Arising out of the old Marden, Staplehurst and Collier Street Agricultural Association which finished up in 1929 after 41 years, there has been provided a Society known as the Marden and District Commercial Fruit Show and which is to hold a two days' show on October 19 and 20, at Marden.

Several preliminary meetings have been held and the first general meeting took place at Staplehurst on Monday when Lord Cornwallis, C.B.E. presided.

The Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. Sutton reported a membership of 100 and a balance in hand of £118-13-11. It was estimated that with additional subscriptions, show takings etc, the funds would be brought up to somewhere in the region of £250.

The schedule which was submitted and approved includes 21 classes of fruit in 3 sections—Culinary and dessert apples and pears. The various cups have been allotted in their different classes and form an additional attraction for competition.

Lord Cornwallis in replying to a vote of thanks said he was delighted that they had decided to hold a fruit exhibition. He was very proud to be the president of the new Society and hoped the new venture would last as long and longer than the old one. He was sure it would be a great benefit to the fruit growers of the district.

Mr. Raynham, chairman of the committee said the Association had had an excellent start, the result having been beyond what they had anticipated.



### WHO?

A committee was formed with Lord Cornwallis as President, Johnny Raynham (Dairy Farm) as Chairman, Cecil Winch (estate agent) as Treasurer and James Arthur Sutton (Marden agricultural supplier) as Secretary. Ten villages surrounding Marden wanted to participate.

*This is a photo of the first committee and various members.*

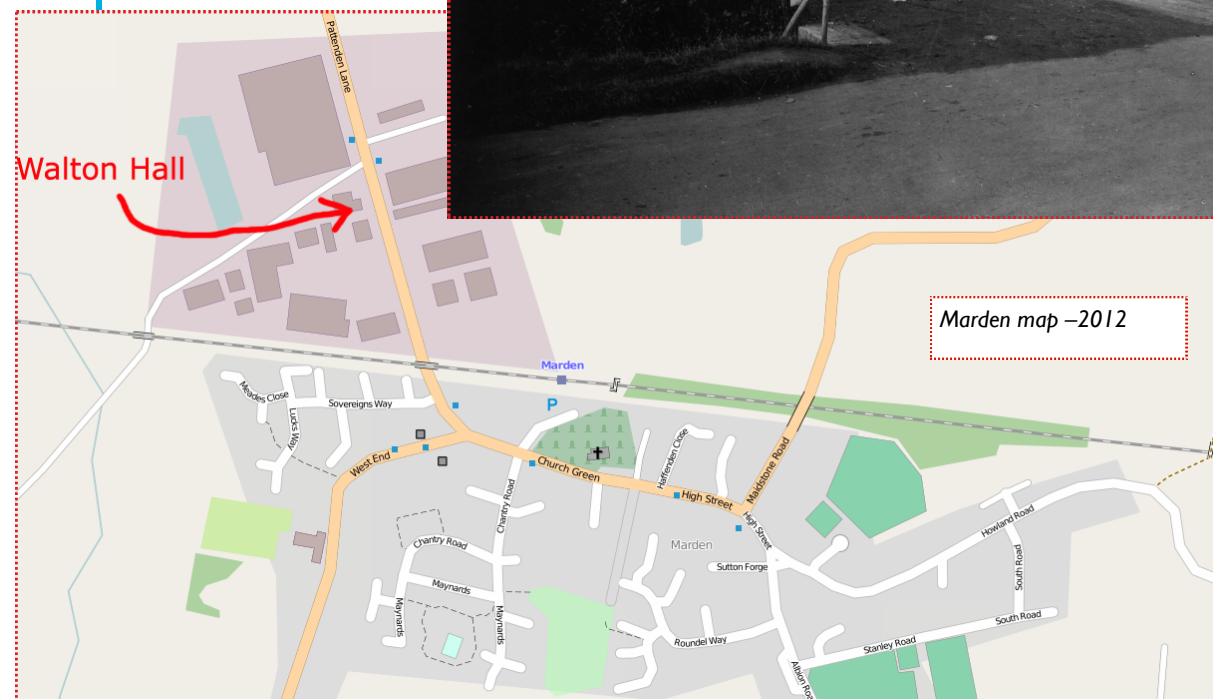
We have conflicting records of names so possibly - back row from the left - Sidney Highwood, Percy Honess, Capt. James Day, Jack Cranham, William Tassell, Percy Butler, Frank Highwood?, F D Savage, Sidney Tipples  
Front row - ?, William Highwood, Edward Day, Johnny Raynham, Lord Cornwallis, Ernest Albert Honess, James Arthur Sutton.

Marden History Group – Ref:471, KCC



**WHERE** could they find suitable premises?

Tom Walton, a fruit salesman, had his basket store of 50' x 100' in Pattenden Lane; and his offer to loan this free of charge was rapidly accepted. He even had the floor covered in tarmac and the building painted inside and out. Charles Chambers (Church Farm) lent his field on the other side of the road for a car park. This was also used to house the marquee for the Fruit Show luncheon.



Marden map –2012

## The 1933 Fruit Show

How many of those farmers were by now having sleepless nights or second thoughts about the commitment they had undertaken? Three thousand information slips were printed and stuck on fruit travelling to English and Welsh fruit markets. All fruit merchants were informed and invited to advertise in the handbook. Deciding that it had better all be done properly, Arthur Sutton purchased 'Rules for Judging Fruit' by the Royal Horticultural Society and also a copy of 'Preparation of Fruit for Market', a publication by His Majesty's Stationery Office. Then 14 judges were appointed, all experienced fruit men. Today's commuters might be astonished that Southern Railway offered half-price return tickets from any station within an eighty mile radius. As October grew near there were more problems to be solved. As there was no official electricity supply in Marden that meant that there wouldn't be enough electricity to power all the necessary lights. Again more 'White Knights' rode to the rescue. E Chambers lent his generator which was used for drying hops and Mr Wright of Maidstone discounted his charge for the wiring.

Then just for good measure, the weather intervened and with an early harvest and no cold storage, they questioned whether there would be enough fruit to make a show worthy display. BUT the sun shone in more ways than one – there were 240 entries and 1,538 visitors arrived, plus the 210 free pass holders. Fruit would have been displayed in ½ barrels, sieves, ½ sieves and then bushel boxes or trays. Dominating the apple varieties were Bramley's Seedlings, Newton Wonders and Cox's Orange Pippins. Alongside AOV – the ubiquitous Any Other Variety! With 4 Open Classes some growers from outside the immediate area were allowed to compete. An auction of the fruit raised another £59. With a huge sigh of relief Marden had found its place on the national map.

The fruit show was held again in Pattenden Lane every few years and by 1992, having outgrown the Marden site and needing better transport links, the show moved to the present site at Detling Showground. In 1999 the show was re-launched as The National Fruit Show



Two hurricane lamps were used to illuminate the car park. The luncheon marquee was provided by Lord Cornwallis, Alfred Day lent a tent, and Twymans' of Canterbury provided two more at half-price. Entries began to pour in and Stanleys', who had envisaged building a modest sized show, kept having to build more stands. Next the prizes started to arrive – cups, plates (not of the crockery kind), winter wash, hoof and horn, Seabrook (apples) trees and even a case of canned fruit, to mention just a few.



## Transport of Fruit from Marden

The coming of the railway made a difference to transporting fruit and as early as the 1880's the farms of Charles Montague Fox were using this method to send their fruit to market.

OCTOBER, 1933. THE KENT FARMERS' JOURNAL. 145

### SOUTHERN RAILWAY

## THROUGH EXPRESS

### FREIGHT SERVICES FOR KENT FRUIT

TO THE  
MIDLANDS, WALES and  
the NORTH

NEXT MORNING  
ARRIVALS!

Special Trains now leaving the undermentioned S.R. Stations Mondays to Fridays inclusive, at the following times:

DEPART (Not Sats.)		DEPART (Not Sats.)	
Ashford ...	10 44 am	Malling ...	11 34 am
Beardsted ...	11 16 am	Marden ...	11 39 am
Bekebourne ...	10 0 am	Newington ...	11 50 am
Canterbury East ...	10 10 am	Oford ...	11 55 am
Charing ...	10 55 am	Paddock Wood ...	11 49 am
Cranbrook ...	10 9 am	Rainham ...	12 2 pm
East Farleigh ...	10 59 am	Selling ...	10 30 am
Eynsford ...	12 6 pm	Sevenoaks (T.H.) ...	12 15 pm
Faversham ...	10 43 am	Shoreham ...	12 0 noon
Goudhurst ...	10 18 am	Sittingbourne ...	11 18 am
Harrietsham ...	11 6 am	Southfleet ...	10 45 am
Hawkhurst ...	10 4 am	Staplehurst ...	11 19 am
Headcorn ...	11 7 am	Swanley ...	12 51 pm
Higham ...	10 30 am	Teynham ...	11 19 am
Hollingbourne ...	11 11 am	Watlington ...	11 25 am
Horsenden ...	10 24 am	Wrotham ...	11 45 am
Lenham ...	11 2 am	Yalding ...	11 38 am
Maidstone West ...	10 45 am		

NB—Ordinary Goods Train Rates will apply to traffic conveyed by these Express Services. Folder giving details available at any of the above-mentioned S.R. Stations.

Fruit Train Timetable for October 1933  
Reprinted in *The Kent Farmers' Journal*  
Marden History Group – Ref:3276

An extract an interview with Alf Winter, railway man, by Phyllis Highwood.

"In the twenties and thirties Marden was a busy station.

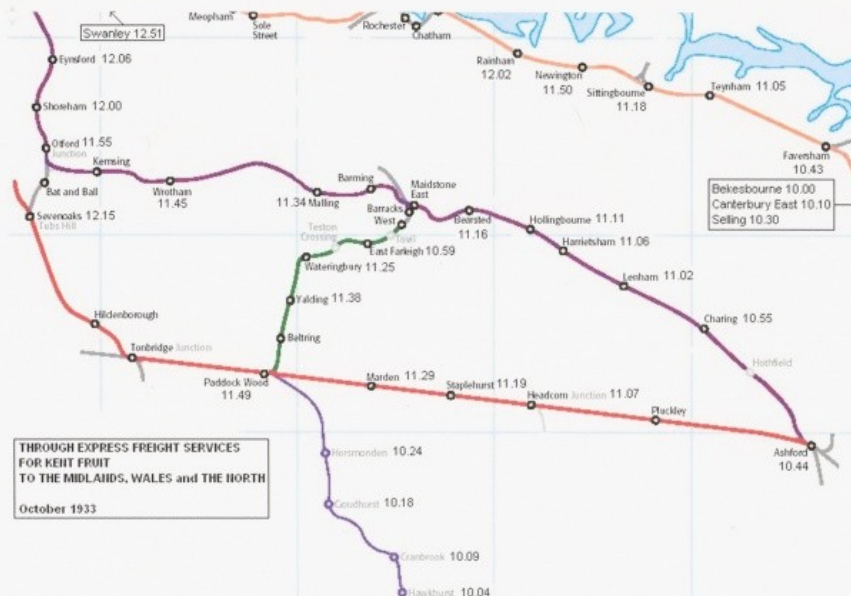
There weren't so many passengers but practically everything else came and went by train. Crowhurst & Tompsett's groceries would arrive first thing in the morning for them to collect later on. Then all the farm fertilisers were delivered by train. We used to have the yard full of the stuff sometimes - rabbit skins, feathers, shoddy. We had a man come once a week just to sweep the yard. We didn't have time - we were too busy handling and loading trains. All the farm produce went by rail. There was a train nicknamed "The Bullet\*" which ran all through the fruit season. It started from Headcorn, picking up loads but whatever it had on when it got to Marden we always doubled it. The farmers brought their loads during the afternoon and evening and we put them in specially fitted trucks. We tried to get most of it done overnight because the train left at 11.30 each morning, travelling up to Glasgow and dropping consignments of fruit off at various towns on the way. They were all on sale at the next day markets."

Frank Wood had other memories – He went to London each night, with the fruit, to the markets, then came back with the empty baskets or other goods. When it was really busy he took a second load to Lipton's and Robertson's for jam or mincemeat. This meant a shift of 16 hours.

So did the railway help the expansion of fruit growing? As more fruit went through Marden Station than anywhere else in the country I should think that the answer is yes. In 1922 The National Farmers' Union tried unsuccessfully to get a railway siding built at Collier Street.

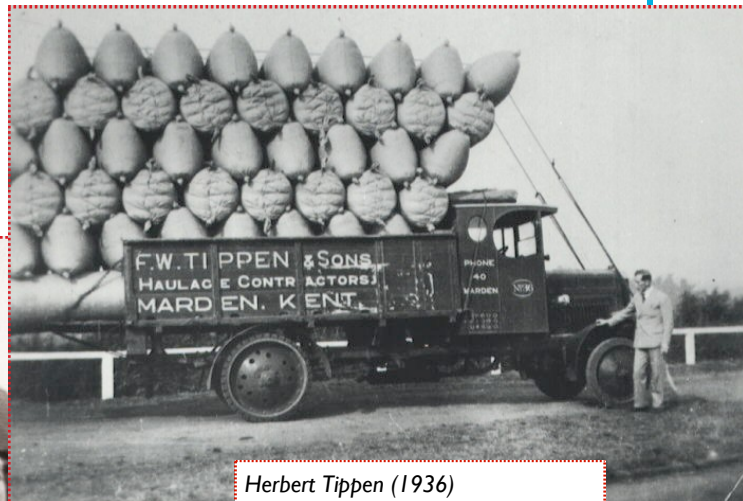
\* The Bullet was a train built in the 1930s with wagon and brake modifications to avoid the bruising of fruit.

Fruit Express map by Chris Gosling



## Transport of Fruit from Marden

The other main form of transport operated from the market, which was behind The Unicorn and now covered in the new houses of Market Buildings. F. W. Tippen ran his haulage company from here.



Herbert Tippen (1936)  
Marden History Group

Herbert Tippen (left) and Mr Cooper of Dennis and Cooper Ltd, James St. Covent Garden. The vehicle is a Morris Commercial 'Leader' model, registration BKK 828 and was taken in 1936, outside Tippen's garage (now Autobase).  
"THE BEST FRUIT COMES FROM MARDEN"  
Marden History Group – Ref:0118



## Transport of Fruit from Marden

*The Tippen's fleet consisted of Morris and Leylands and the drivers were mostly locals. Later, Gerald Tomkinson ran his haulage business from the market site.*



Marden History Group – Ref:0121 The Tippen's depot at Old Market (opposite the Crowhurst & Thompson store). The vehicles, left to right, are KJ 8429, BKK 828, AKL 879, BKM 29, BKL 768, AKP 703, ?? [could be one of 3 or 4 others], NL 4235, XX 3928. The first (driven by Snowball Botten) is a Morris-Commercial normal control 2 tonner of 1932 vintage. The other 6 Morris-Commercials were of the 'Leader' type and forward control. The last two are RAF-type Leylands. They were known as RAF Leylands as they were designed for the RAF at the end of WWI and built in hundreds. At the end of the war many were sold as surplus and became the starting point for many haulage companies up and down the country. They had solid tyres and acetylene headlamps.

L-R : Snowy Botten, Wink Sharp, Bert Macey, William "Weary" Dowle, Alec Stone, Archie Reader, Curly Flisher, Viv Reader, Bob Willard, Horace Ball.  
Marden History Group – Ref:0113



Apples being transported by E. O. Hills & Son (Portsmouth); on the right is Mrs. Smith with Bill (Shoddy) her son. 10, Brooklyn Villas in Goudhurst Road can be seen in the background. Marden History Group – Ref:4056

*Author's note – Having talked about the ups and downs of helping to run our Heritage Centre; this was one of the downs when the promised article never appeared and I had to set to and do it myself. Therefore I apologise for any gaps. I am indebted to the following people who have given their time to talk to me and the references from A Wealden Village by Phyllis Highwood and Peggy Skelton: Ken & David Jenner, Trevor Simmons, John & Sue Sutton and Phyll Highwood. Also the information gathered is in good faith but I won't mind if someone tells me different. It's starting to run away with me and I see the potential for a book coming up – meanwhile I must go and eat my delicious baked quinces. Eunice Doswell.*



The Marden Society was formed in the 1970s in response to concerns about a particular development near the village. After that was successfully resolved the Society has gone on to both represent the views of the village, as far as it is able, and to promote interest in Marden, in Kent and in the countryside in general.

## Some articles from The Parish Pump, newsletter of the Marden Society

So what is Brogdale? Ted Hobday, who acts as a guide there, told us about the National Fruit Collection which is held at Brogdale, Kent, just south of Faversham. It is a 150 acre farm with the largest collection in the world of different varieties of fruit and, just like Noah's Ark; it holds 2 of each variety.

- Apples – 2200 (650 are British)
- Pears – 550
- Grapes – 100
- Soft fruit – 400
- Plums – 351
- Cherries – 321
- Cobnuts – 40
- Quince – 19
- Medlars – 5

Cobnuts:



Quinces:



Medlars:



They reckon that they have the best land for fruit growing (better even than Marden!), as they have good soil on top of chalk and get the North winds in winter which sends the trees/bushes to sleep when they need it. So is that the remedy for a good night's sleep?

Ted took us through some of the names of the "cherry orchard" housing estate in Marden:

- Roundel – a mid season, red cherry from Kent
- Napoleon – a white (red on yellow), late cherry from Kent
- Merchant – an early dark red cherry from Cambridgeshire
- Stella – a late, dark red cherry from Canada
- Sunburst – another late, dark red cherry from Canada

Fruit can be deliberately propagated or many varieties come from sports. A pip may be spat out and mutate. Golden Delicious came from an orchard in California. We have some locally named fruit with a Diamond plum from Brenchley and a Farleigh damson (picture). The very early nurseries have several fruit named after them – Early Rivers and Laxtons are two of them. There is no need for special trees to cross pollinate each other here in Marden as there are enough orchards around for this purpose. Also Britain is the only place to differentiate between cooking and dessert apples.



The Bloody Ploughman has an interesting story attached to its name. A ploughman from Perthshire was scrumping, not only for himself but, to sell to others. Caught by the gamekeeper he was shot and killed. The widow was even given the apples which she threw out in disgust. However a new apple grew and was given the memorable name.



We only got Cox's Orange Pippins because Richard Cox made his money brewing ale and retired to his hobby of growing apples. Many apples have been cross-bred from Coxes. The Braeburn apple was just found growing in New Zealand and the Bramley apple grew from a sport found in Southwell. Here we celebrated its 100th birthday by planting one in the churchyard. Only 5% of trials are successful.

Brogdale is funded by DEFRA. Trees have to be repropagated every 25 years, with the ground then left fallow for 6/7 years. If you wish to buy a tree from there, you will be consulted about where you live and what sort of root stock you wish to have, according to the size of your garden. Tours are available and are most popular at blossom time and tasting time.

\*The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is a government department in

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## Odd Spot

### THE SALE OF A WIFE

On Thursday last, the following iniquitous scene was witnessed in Maidstone Market.

'A man (formerly of Marden) named William Payne, sold his wife and 2 children to a person named James Laddams, of Marden, for ten shillings. The woman was led in to the market with a halter round her neck, and thus exposed for sale, and after the purchase had been completed, the man and woman returned to an adjacent inn and indulged themselves with a hearty dinner. Immediately after this nefarious transfer had been concluded, the wife coolly addressed her husband - 'Well after this, I hope you will not molest me anymore, nor attempt to come near me' To which her husband replied: 'No not as long as I live'.

On returning to Marden, by which time all parties were far from sober, an altercation took place about the

husband's furniture, which his successor declared was included in the bargain. A fight ensued, which ended in Payne being stabbed in the face with a knife, though not seriously.'

5 weeks later it was reported in the 'Maidstone Journal' 'It will be remembered, a few weeks back a disgraceful scene took place at Maidstone market, a person from Marden bringing his wife thither with a halter for sale. Last Saturday morning, this man was met about four o'clock on his road home. Soon after his arrival, the neighbours were alarmed, and when they came to his assistance, found he had bled to death. On Tuesday last, an inquest was held on the body, at the Unicorn Inn, Marden, before W.T. Neve Esq. Aneurism of the aorta, it appeared, caused his death.

Verdict: 'Death by visitation of God'.  
Ref: Maidstone Journal June 1847.

## Exhibitions at the Heritage Centre

Last year we opened an exhibition on Local Folk. The exhibition team, headed by Patricia Foscett, had done us proud. It took the form of newspapers with their usual mix of news, cartoons, adverts etc. This was opened by Wendy Hemsley, a true local lady whose idea the exhibition was. Also local is Christine Pavey and she was delighted to introduce the writings of her father, Frank Wood, which is the latest of our books for sale. Frank's writings were co-ordinated by Mari and Chris Gosling,

and are a fascinating read about his memories of Marden and its villagers.

With Christmas approaching we showcased Plays and Pantomimes for the following exhibition. Do come along and see the opening of the new Exhibition in February: The coming of the Railway to mid Kent.

## Meet the MHG: A snapshot of the Despatches editor — Maureen Clayton.



Mo Clayton has lived in Marden for 15 years with her husband, Bryan. They came here after Mo retired, as Mo's two children were now living in this area. Mo is currently studying for her degree in History and hopes to receive her BA by next year. She reckons she will just about be the oldest graduate in the history of the University of Kent by the time she receives it. It has been an expensive process but will fulfill a long held ambition on her bucket list when she succeeds.

Mo is a keen dinghy sailor and 'organises' a group of mainly retired sailors at Bewl Water - they meet every Wednesday for sailing and winter waling. Her other interests are painting, studying French in a very laid back way assisted by wine with friends, and family matters also take quite a lot of time. Mo and Bryan have never regretted coming to Marden - they find it a friendly hospitable village with lots of things happening. Mo has been Chairman of the Marden Society for three years, and gives help as a researcher at the Heritage Centre.

## MARDEN HISTORY GROUP

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[www.mardenhistory.org.uk](http://www.mardenhistory.org.uk)

This issue's reduced price offer for members:

### The Sutton Family of Marden 101 years of local history

"The Sutton Family of Marden" collated by  
Mari Gosling (66 pages A4, extensively  
illustrated) £11.00.

James Henry Sutton, the first of the  
Marden Suttons, arrived here from  
London in 1908. Agricultural merchants  
and pillars of the community, this  
prominent Marden family is celebrated in  
words and pictures – including over sixty  
early 20th century photographs from glass  
plate negatives discovered in a village loft  
and restored by the History Group.



"The Sutton Family of Marden" - the story of a Marden merchant. 66 pages A4.  
Normal price £11.00, **offer price £9.00**. Pick yours up from the Heritage Centre (bring any  
membership email printout) or order from the Selby Oast address (please add £1.50 P and P).  
Sterling cheques made payable to "Marden History Group" please.

### Event: Parliamentary Archives Research

Events – The main venture is a collaboration  
between the Parliamentary Archives, the Centre  
for Kentish Studies and ourselves. The first  
meeting was at the end of January and then we  
worked towards an exhibition in Maidstone library  
in March. We shall be examining all our respective  
data about the coming of the railway to Marden  
and the impact it made on the local area.

EXHIBITION OPENS 25 FEBRUARY 2012 1.00PM  
by Laura Gardner



### Marden History Group

The Marden History Group aims to seek, preserve, inspire and transmit knowledge of the history  
of the village of Marden. It is a working group of eight who meet each month to plan the work,  
aided by a group of volunteers working on a variety of projects.

**Disclaimer** - All information in this newsletter is given in good faith and to the best of our  
knowledge is correct, however we cannot be held responsible or liable for its accuracy.

